

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please substitute the following paragraphs for the paragraphs indicated by page and line number as follows:

On page 1, the paragraph beginning at line 13:

The traditional manufacture of paint has utilized processes which continuously fill containers with a neutral or base color at the central facility. The containers are transported to the point of use or point of sale and stored until use or resale. The transport and storage in the individual containers adds significantly to the cost of the sold product for it is necessary to inventory a wide variety of paints having different finish characteristics to satisfy consumer demand. For example, the finishes offered for sale range from the traditional flat paint through varying resin compositions up to a high gloss finish. Inventory is maintained for all the different finishes at the point of sale by the merchant.

On page 2, the paragraph beginning at line 11:

The present invention is directed to the provision of prepaints, which are fluid prepaint compositions or premixed aqueous compositions which can be used to provide a paint mixture of varying finish characteristics at the point of sale. Thus, the merchant distributing the paint composition made from the subject premixed compositions need only maintain inventory of four compositions. The particular compositions which are the subject of the invention exhibit stable characteristics during storage in their respective reservoirs.

On page 3, the paragraph beginning at line 15:

A method of producing an aqueous paint composition or fluid prepaint is also provided. The method includes storing a first premixed composition in a first supply reservoir. The first composition may be any one of four compositions, the four compositions including a pigment composition, a dispersant thickening agent, a high resin content binder, and a low resin content binder. The apparatus also includes a second supply reservoir containing a second premixed composition that is another of the four compositions. The method also includes storing a second premixed composition that is another of the four compositions in a second supply reservoir. The method determines a first predetermined amount of the first premixed composition and a second predetermined amount of the second premixed composition. The first premixed composition is supplied from the first supply reservoir to a receiving reservoir, and the second premixed composition is supplied from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir. A first flow amount of the first premixed composition supplied from the first supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir and a second flow amount of the second premixed composition supplied from the second supply reservoir to the receiving reservoir are measured. Supply of the first premixed composition is ceased when the first flow amount equals the first predetermined amount and supply of the second premixed composition is ceased when the second flow amount equals the second predetermined amount.

On page 6, the paragraph beginning at line 19:

The pigment-containing constituent or premixed pigment composition preferably contains titanium dioxide finely ground in an amount residing within the range of 40 to 50 percent by weight of the pigment. The titanium dioxide is an opacifying pigment. The ground titanium dioxide is a commercially available product used in a wide variety of paint compositions and its preparation techniques are well-known in the industry. The titanium dioxide is added to water which comprises about 25 percent of the resultant pigment composition. During the blending process, a mixture of calcined clay and silica in an amount of 15 percent by weight is added to maintain the titanium dioxide in suspension. A viscosity controlling agent is also added in an amount of about 10 percent of the resultant dispersion or pigment composition.

On page 8, the paragraph beginning at line 20:

The dispersant-thickener agent is preferably used in formulating all paint compositions with the exception of a high gloss finish paint composition. The third and fourth compositions available for mixing are the resin-containing compositions. The low resin composition or extender prepaint is preferably about 50 percent resin by weight and about 28 percent water. However, the percentage of resin by weight can be as low as 10 percent. To this mixture of resin and water is added diatomaceous earth as a flattening agent or an extender pigment in the amount of about 7 percent and a combination of ground limestone and calcined clay at about 11 percent and about 3.5 percent respectively. The ground limestone, or calcium carbonate, is another example of an extender pigment. The combination of a dispersant and thickener are added in the aggregate amount of about 1.2 percent to promote the same long shelf life characteristic of the pigment composition.

On page 9, the paragraph beginning at line 5:

The high resin component preferably contains resin in an amount of about 80 percent, water at about 15 percent and a commercially-available coalescent at about 2 percent. However, the percentage of resin by weight can be as high as about 90 percent. The amount of resin and water in the low and high resin compositions can be varied to achieve different finish characteristics. The resin utilized in the paint products formulated from the different combinations and found to provide the desired results is a 100 percent acrylic acrylon resin, such as the resin sold under the trademark 6183 by BASF. This resin is polymeric and inherently produces a latex paint composition. However, it is to be noted that other commercially available resins can be used if desired.

On page 10, the paragraph beginning at line number 1:

The four compositions can also be varied to produce varying quality levels and to produce paint compositions that are suitable for either interior or exterior use and paint compositions having various color bases so that they are suitable for use as different types of colors. As is well known, a plurality of paint compositions or a paint line includes two or more different paint compositions in which the dried films differ materially from each other in at least one measurable property.

On page 11, the paragraph beginning at line 6:

All the foregoing examples are typical for retail quality paints suitable for exterior use with pastel colors. As can be appreciated from the disclosure provided herein, paint compositions may be provided by combining a set of two or more premixed compositions or prepaints.